Karappara multipurpose project of Kerala Government was rejected by the Ministry on 10.11.1998. Thereafter, a revised proposal submitted by Kerala Government was also rejected on 24.5.2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No final view has been taken in the matter.

Amount sanctioned for Nandankanan Zoo by CZA

1431. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of amount sanctioned by the Central Zoo Authority for the Nandankanan Zoo during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Authority had been given utilization certificate for the said amount by the zoo authority.

(c) whether the expenditure incurred by the zoo authority was audited, if so, the details of audit report; and

(d) the action taken on any irregularity pointed out in the audit report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Amount Provided by Central Zoo Authority to Nadankanan Zoo:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	16.00
1997-98	7.35
1998-99	3.00
1999-2000	65.50 (5.5 precyclone and 60.00 post-cyclone)

(b) Utilisation Certificate for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 have been received by the Central Zoo Authority in April, 1999.

Utilisation Certificates for the year 1998-99 is awaited. Utilisation Certificate **for the** year 1990-2000 is not due **yet.**

(c) and (d) Audit of the expenditure for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 has been carried out by Accountant General, Orissa. No financial irregularity has been observed.

Proposals for Hilly Districts of U.P.

† 1432. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister **of** ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be **pleased to state:**

(a) the details of approvals granted under section-2 of Conservation of Forests Act, 1980 during the last year in the hilly districts of Pauri, Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Bageswar, Almora, Champawat in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that rubbles and sandstones are brought to these districts from plains hundreds of kms. away due to which the difficulties of common men are rising, besides manifold rise in the cost of Government construction work;

(c) if so, whether Government would take steps to remove this disparity; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) A total 66 proposals of the hilly districts of Pauri, Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Bageswar, Almora **and** Champawat in Uttar Pradesh have been approved under section-2 **of** Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the last year *i.e.* 1999. The details of these are at Annexrure-I [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 21]

(b) to (d) There is no ban on collection of rubbles, sand stones etc. from the river bed in forest areas situated in either hill or plain. As the collection of rubble, sand etc. from the river beds located in the forest areas, is a non-forest activity; prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is required to be obtained by the State Government.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.